



Patent
252/070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Caldwell

Serial No.: 08/962,700

Filed: November 30, 1997

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
CONTROLLED PLACEMENT OF A
POLYMER COMPOSITION INTO A WEB

Group Art Unit: 1734

Examiner: Lorengo

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action dated November 10, 1999, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the following Amendment and Remarks.

Amendment

1. ^{Sub} ~~FL~~ (Three Times Amended) ^{System} ~~Apparatus~~ for controlling the placement of a shear-thinnable polymer composition into a porous web, having a three dimensional structure of a plurality of structural elements with interstitial spaces therebetween, comprising:

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(37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

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D1
means for applying tension to the porous web;
means for applying a curable, shear-thinnable, polymer composition onto one surface of the tensioned web; and
means for shear thinning the polymer composition to substantially reduce its viscosity and selectively place it into the tensioned web to encapsulate at least some of the structural elements of the porous web by enveloping exposed surface portions of the structural elements, thereby only partially filling [leaving] most of the interstitial spaces between said structural elements [open].

F Sub F2
133. (Twice Amended) ~~System~~ Apparatus for controlling the placement of a shear-thinnable polymer composition into a porous web, having a three dimensional structure of a plurality of structural elements with interstitial spaces therebetween and a three dimensional top surface opposed from a three dimensional bottom surface, comprising:

D2
means for applying tension to the web;
means for applying a curable, shear-thinnable, polymer composition onto one surface of the tensioned web;
blade means for engaging said one surface of the tensioned web;
means for moving the web relative to said blade means; and
means for controlling said tension applying means and said blade means to shear thin the polymer composition to substantially reduce its viscosity and to selectively place it into the tensioned web to encapsulate at least some of the structural elements of the porous web by enveloping exposed surface portions of the structural elements, thereby only partially filling [leaving] most of the interstitial spaces between said structural elements [open].

F Sub F3
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D3
(Twice Amended) ~~System~~ Apparatus for controlled placement of a shear-thinnable polymer composition into a porous web, having a three dimensional structure of a plurality of structural elements with interstitial spaces therebetween, comprising:

means for advancing a porous web;
means for applying tension to the porous web;
means for applying a curable, shear-thinnable, polymer composition to the web; [and]